

TOP SECRET SECRET CONFIDENTIAL UNCLASSIFIED

Sen From bel

Approved For Release 2003/10/29 : CIA-RDP73B00296R000200040040-2

DISTRIBUTION

DDCI  
ExD  
DNIPE  
DDI

DDP(2)  
DOCI  
ONE  
OSR  
OSI(2)  
C/OPCN

PDB  
INDICO  
CSDO  
IW  
LAVA  
OSD

e  
C/c  
wh  
mea

GOODWIN

*Press Item for the DCI*

Date: 21 May 1971

Item No. 17

Ref No. 1

Attached is a Reuters dispatch written here in Washington on a Moose-Lowenstein report to Senator Symington's Senate Foreign Relations subcommittee on a recent trip those two took to Laos. (follows up referent item). It is said to confirm charges that the Agency has been financing Thai mercenaries in Laos. Goodwin and Maury have copies.

MNOR644 EPF318  
1536 : INDOCHINA-MERCENARIES :  
(650-THREE TAKES)

WASHINGTON, MAY 21, REUTER -- MEMBERS OF THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE TODAY INDICATED THAT A SECRET REPORT FROM THEIR INVESTIGATORS CONFIRMS CHARGES THAT MORE THAN 4,000 THAI TROOPS FINANCED BY THE C.I.A. ARE OPERATING IN LAOS.

THE CHARGES WERE RAISED BY SEN. CLIFFORD P. CASE, R-N.J., WHO IS QUESTIONING WHETHER THE USE OF THAI TROOPS VIOLATES CONGRESSIONAL BANS ON THE USE OF SO-CALLED MERCENAIRES FROM OTHER NATIONS IN LAOS TO SUPPORT THE ROYAL GOVERNMENT.

A 56-PAGE CLASSIFIED REPORT ON THE WAR IN LAOS WAS PRESENTED AT A CLOSED MEETING OF A FOREIGN RELATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE FRIDAY BY TWO STAFF MEMBERS, RICHARD MOOSE AND JAMES LOWENSTEIN, WHO MADE A FACT-FINDING TRIP TO THE WAR-TORN ASIAN KINGDOM LATE LAST MONTH.

THE MEETING BY THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON U.S. COMMITMENTS ABROAD FOLLOWED A SENATE SPEECH THURSDAY IN WHICH CASE SAID HE HAD RECEIVED CONFIRMATION OF THE PRESENCE OF THAI TROOPS IN LAOS ON A NOT-FOR-QUOTATION BASIS FROM GOVERNMENT SOURCES.

CASE DECLINED TO COMMENT DIRECTLY ON THE CONTENTS OF THE REPORT BUT WHEN HE WAS ASKED AFTER THE MEETING IF C.I.A. FINANCED THAI TROOPS ARE OPERATING IN LAOS, HE SAID, "THERE IS NO QUESTION ABOUT THAT."

HE TOLD REPORTERS THE REPORT BY THE TWO STAFF MEN, BOTH FORMER FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICERS, INDICATED THAT A LETTER SENT TO HIM ON THE ISSUE BY THE STATE DEPARTMENT WAS INCOMPLETE AND IN SOME RESPECTS INACCURATE.

MORE (N/V) TBA/VZ

CRC, 10/07/2003

NNNN

NOR645 EPF319

1541 : INDOCHINA-MERCENARIES 2 WASHINGTON:

THE SENATOR WROTE TO SECRETARY OF STATE WILLIAM P. ROGERS TO ASK IF FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR THAI TROOPS IN LAOS VIOLATED A CONGRESSIONAL MEASURE PASSED LAST YEAR.

THIS PROHIBITED PAYMENTS TO THIRD-COUNTRY FORCES FIGHTING IN LAOS, EXCEPT TO AID THE AMERICAN TROOP WITHDRAWALS FROM VIETNAM OR ASSIST IN RELEASE OF U.S. PRISONERS.

SEN. J. WILLIAM FULBRIGHT, D-ARK., CHAIRMAN OF THE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE, TOLD REPORTERS HE THOUGHT THE NUMBER OF THAI TROOPS INVOLVED IN LAOS WAS ABOUT 4,800.

SEN. STUART SYMINGTON, D.MD., CHAIRMAN OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE, ~~THAT THE STATE DEPARTMENT REPORTS ON THE TROOP AGREEMENTS IN LAOS~~ AND OTHER NATIONS, SAID THE MOOSE-LOWENSTEIN REPORT "CONFIRMS THAT WHAT WE HAVE BEEN TOLD ABOUT LAOS IS INCOMPLETE AND INACCURATE."

HE SAID HE WILL TRY TO GET AS MUCH OF THE REPORT AS POSSIBLE DECLASSIFIED SO THE AMERIO PUBLIILL HAVE MORE INFORMATION ABOUT WHAT HE TERMED THE SECRET WAR IN LAOS.

NEWS REPORTS FROM LAOS HAVE SAID THAT THAI TROOPS WERE TO BE USED IN THE NORTHERN PART OF LAOS, WHERE U.S.-SUPPORTED ROYAL LAOTIAN FORCES ARE FIGHTING THE COMMUNIST-BACKED PATHET LAO.

A STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL RECENTLY TOLD A CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE THAT THE WAR IN THE NORTH WAS SEPARATE FROM THE MILITARY OPERATIONS ALONG THE HO CHI MINH TRAIL AND AREAS BORDERING SOUTH VIETNAM.

MORE (N/V) TB/VZ

NNNN

NOR646

CK 1545

NOR647 EPF320

1546 : INDOCHINA-MERCENARIES 3 WASHINGTON:

THUS, USE OF THE TROOPS IN NORTHERN LAOS WOULD APPEAR TO VIOLATE THE CONGRESSIONAL PROHIBITIONS, OBSERVERS SAID.

BUT CASE SAID THE STATE DEPARTMENT WOULD PROBABLY ARGUE THAT A COLLAPSE OF THE ROYAL LAOTIAN GOVERNMENT WOULD BE A SETBACK FOR THE PROGRAM OF WITHDRAWING AMERICAN FORCES FROM NEIGHBORING VIETNAM.

CASE SAID HIS LETTER TO ROGERS, DATED APRIL 23, ASKED WHETHER THE U.S. GOVERNMENT HAS GIVEN ANY ASSURANCES TO THE THAI GOVERNMENT OF AMERICAN SUPPORT IN THE EVENT THAI TROOPS IN LAOS ENCOUNTER DIFFICULTIES.

THE SENATOR ALSO ASKED FOR SPECIFIC TERMS OF THE TROOP AGREEMENT WITH THE THAI GOVERNMENT, POINTING OUT THAT CONGRESS HAS NEVER DIRECTLY VOTED FOR SUCH FINANCING.

CASE SUGGESTED TO REPORTERS THAT THAI TROOPS WERE BEING BROUGHT INTO LAOS BECAUSE OF HEAVY CASUALTIES AMONG THE MEO TRIBESMEN ORGANIZED BY THE C.I.A. AND TO ANTI-COMMUNIST AND MILITARY FORCES.

HE SAID THERE IS A SHRINKING POOL OF MANPOWER AVAILABLE TO THE FORCES ON THE GOVERNMENT SIDE.

REUTER (N/V) TB/VZ

CONFIDENTIAL

Journal - Office of Legislative Counsel  
Friday - 21 May 1971

Page 3

25X1A

25X1 6. [ ] Mr. Maury and [ ] talked with Ed Braswell, Chief Counsel, Senate Armed Services Committee, about the Agency's position with regard to the transmittal of intelligence information to GAO in connection with a study GAO is undertaking at Senator McIntyre's request on U.S. -USSR military RDT&E expenditures. See Memo for Record.

25X1 7. [ ] Received a call from Bill Woodruff, Counsel, Senate Appropriations Committee, who suggested that we provide him with several possible dates which would be convenient for the Director to appear before the Intelligence Subcommittee on the community and CIA budgets during the week of 7 June. I told Woodruff we would be back in touch with him on this.

Woodruff mentioned the Ben Welles article on "Nixon's Reorganization of the Intelligence Structure" and reports in today's paper on Senator Case's disclosures re Thai troops in Laos. On the first item I told Woodruff such a study was being undertaken and, on the basis of information which we had, the Welles column was essentially accurate. Woodruff commented that Senator Ellender would want to hear further about this at our budget session. (I have alerted Colonel White and Mr. John Clarke.)

On the Case matter I told Woodruff this was a leak of testimony from a classified briefing which the Director gave the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and I added that we were upset about it. Woodruff commented that he thought it was "pretty bad."

25X1 8. [ ] Met with Mr. Donald May, Legislative Assistant to Senator Gaylord Nelson (D., Wis.), in response to his letter on behalf of the Senator requesting unclassified information on the Soviet defense budget. I explained to Mr. May that any information we had on this subject was in the classified field and we then discussed the substance of an Agency intelligence memorandum entitled "Soviet Defense and Space Spending 1962-71" dated May 1971. (May has a current TS clearance with DOD.) May then showed me a paper he had done on this subject in 1969 and the statements therein were remarkably accurate and current. He thanked me for meeting with him and agreed that there should be no attribution to the Agency in anything which we had discussed.

CONFIDENTIAL

SECRET

Journal - Office of Legislative Counsel  
Friday - 21 May 1971

Page 2

25X1 3. [ ] Met with Carl Marcy, Chief of Staff, Senate Foreign Relations Committee, to discuss the problem of Senator Case's recent public statements regarding Thai troops in Laos. I said unattributable press leaks were one thing but a direct quote from the Director's testimony in executive session gave a new dimension to the problem and we were deeply disturbed. Marcy said he thought I'd come to complain about a statement Senator Fulbright was making this afternoon on the same subject. I said I probably would complain about it if I'd known about it. He said he'd like to think that the Committee staff could exercise some control over policy statements and major disclosures of the members, but unfortunately both the Case and Fulbright statements had been made without his knowledge. He added that one of his problems is that staff members of individual senators, such as John Marks in Case's office, were trying to "get in the act" and this undermined the position of the Committee staff. He said he fully appreciates our problem and thought maybe the Director might like to write an informal letter to Chairman Fulbright, avoiding reference to any specific instance but expressing continuing concern in general terms of protecting testimony given in executive session. I said I'd pass this back to the Director.

25X1 4. [ ] Al Tarabochia, Senate Internal Security Subcommittee, thinking it might be of interest to us, called to pass on information concerning the Venceremos Brigade and activities directed at Haiti which was relayed to [ ] CI Staff. 25X1A

25X1 5. [ ] Mary Naughton, in the office of John A. Blatnik (D., Minn.), called concerning the status of an applicant, [ ] 25X1A [ ] I told her that his application had been reviewed but, unfortunately for him, we were not able to identify a suitable vacancy and [ ] had been so advised by letter on 12 May 1971. Miss Naughton requested a copy of this letter and it was subsequently sent to her.

25X1A

SECRET